UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/651,654	08/30/2000	Satoshi Yashiro	CANO:013	2191

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EXAMINER
ALI, MOHAMMAD

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2177	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/651,654	YASHIRO, SATOSHI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mohammad Ali	2177

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _30 August 2002_ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .	6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the application filed on August 30, 2000.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-18 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshitaka

Sano ('Sano' hereinafter), US Patent 5,038,379.

As to claim 1, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search

apparatus, which searches image data according to keywords assigned to said image data, said image

management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15). In particular, Sano teaches an input means for

inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data

correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and

stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col.

2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images

to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in

the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search

information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally,

the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means

accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 3, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search apparatus, which searches image data according to keywords assigned to said image data, said image management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15). In particular, Sano teaches an input means for inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col. 2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally, the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 7, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search apparatus, which searches image data according to keywords assigned to said image data, said image management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15). In particular, Sano teaches an input means for inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col. 2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally, the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means

accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 9, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search

apparatus, which searches image data according to keywords assigned to said image data, said image

management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15). In particular, Sano teaches an input means for

inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data

correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and

stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col.

2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images

to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in

the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search

information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally,

the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means

accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 13, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search

method and apparatus in storage medium, which searches image data according to keywords assigned

to said image data, said image management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15, Fig. 1). In

particular, Sano teaches an input means for inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data

correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and

stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col.

2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images

to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in

the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search

information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally,

the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means

accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 15, Sano discloses the claimed invention including, an image management and search

method and apparatus in storage medium, which searches image data according to keywords assigned

to said image data, said image management and search apparatus (col. 1, lines 10-15, Fig. 1). In

particular, Sano teaches an input means for inputting search terms (col. 1, lines 58-62).

Sano further teaches a storage means storing said keywords assigned to said image data

correspondingly to importance as an image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and

stores in a recording medium and thereby making the search of desired (Keyword) image information (col.

2, lines 3-8). Further the means for searching said storage means for keywords corresponding to images

to be searched according to the search terms inputted by said input means is taught by Sano as search in

the image information inputted from an image inputting apparatus and thereby to produce the search

information to search desired (Keyword) image information in consideration (col. 1, lines 58-62). Finally,

the means for rearranging images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means

accordingly to said importance is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 2, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said

search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image

information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 4, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said

search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61, col. 5, lines 1-16 et seq).

As per claim 5, the rearranging means according to the level,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 6, receiving the search terms inputted by a client,...is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 8, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 10, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61, col. 5, lines 1-16 et seq).

As to claim 11, the means according to the level,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 14, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information

including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 16, the means rearranges the images corresponding to the keywords searched by said search means accordingly,... is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61, col. 5, lines 1-16 et seq).

As to claim 12, receiving the search terms inputted by a client,...is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 17, priority according the importance,...is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

As to claim 18, receiving the search terms inputted by a client,...is taught by Sano as the desired keyword for this image information including discriminating information to discriminate the image information for a plurality of image information of the same group (rearranging) from another image information (col. 2, lines 58-61 et seq).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Please see attached PTO-892.

U.S. Patent No. 6,463,426 B1, issued to Lipson et al. on 10/08/02. The subject matter disclosed therein in pertinent to that of claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 13, 15 (e.g. importance of image data, matrix, col. 2, lines 44-46 et seq)

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should

be directed to Mohammad Ali whose telephone number is (703) 605-4356. The examiner can normally

be reached on Monday to Thursday from 7:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John

Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238

for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be

directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

Mohammad Ali

Patent Examiner

January 14, 2003